

ABSTRACT

Providing a virtual device container to
virtually extend the functionality of a network
device on a network for supporting a plurality of
functional application modules residing in a server
on the network, including receiving a function
request sent from one of the functional application
modules, the function request corresponding to the
network device, and selecting one of a plurality of
functional component modules in response to the
function request, each of the functional component
modules corresponding to a respective one of the
functional application modules, the selected
functional component module corresponding to the
functional application module which sent the
function request. The virtual device container also
includes executing the selected functional component
module according to the function request, wherein
each functional component module communicates with
the corresponding functional application module
through a first interface and communicates with the
network device through a second interface.